

STARTING OF A GRANT-IN-AID DISPENSARY IN GOTHURUTHI 561

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move that the bill be taken up and finally passed to-morrow.

Motion put and carried

Resolutions

1. Starting of a grant-in-aid Dispensary in Gothuruthi

Mr. M. L. Joseph (*Latin-Cristians-Cranganur*): Sir, I move the following resolution: "*This Council recommends to the Government that a grant-in-aid dispensary be started in the island of Gothuruthi in the Chennamangalam village.*"

Sir, the necessity for such a dispensary has been long felt and various petitions and requests have been sent to the Government but nothing has yet been done in that direction. Gothuruthi is a small island in the Chennamangalam village, having an area of about two square miles, but at the same time it is perhaps the most thickly populated place, more thickly populated than even the Ernakulam town. It consists of a population of more than 6,000 people, and being surrounded on all sides by deep waters, it is very difficult for people to cross over to Cranganur to get medical aid. This difficulty has been felt for a long time past and the fact has been brought to the notice of the medical officer in the Cranganur dispensary as also to the notice of the Chief Medical Officer. The medical officer in charge of the Cranganur dispensary has certified that there is real necessity for this dispensary in Gothuruthi.

There is another difficulty. Generally in villages, there will be one or two native physicians available. But in this particular place, unfortunately there is not even a single native physician available. Whenever there is any necessity for medical aid people have to go to Parur or Cranganur, and in cases of urgent necessity, by the time the medical man arrives, the patient may have breathed his last. Such instances have occurred there. Even granting that medical aid can be got from Cranganur or Parur, it is not within the reach of the poor people. Only few rich men who can afford to carry the patient to those places without injury to the patient himself or can get a doctor to their houses can avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the Cranganur hospital. In view of all these facts, I do not think a long speech is necessary to establish the urgency for establishing a grant-in-aid dispensary in Gothuruthi. At least out of humanitarian considerations, at least out of consideration for the lives of the poor village folk, I feel convinced that our Government, who were always foremost in extending their sympathetic hands

to the suffering agriculturists and debtors, will also in the same way extend their sympathetic hands to these poor villagers in a case where it is a greater necessity to save the lives of these people than to save them from debts and encumbrances. With these words, I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin-Christians-Ernakulam*): Sir, I beg to second the resolution moved just now by my hon'ble friend. Those who are acquainted with the conditions of that locality will be convinced of the necessity of having a dispensary there. It is a place which has got a large population and at the same time cut off from communications with other places by difficulties of water communication. So very often emergent cases arise and casualties occur owing to the inability of procuring medical aid in time. Especially during the monsoon times, the surrounding backwaters are so stormy that it is dangerous to travel in small boats with patients, to cross over to Cranganur. Every year we hear of casualties of boats having capsized. Even if the boat reaches its destination, the doctor will be reluctant to travel under those conditions. There are very many instances where the doctor declined to come owing to these hard conditions. There is no need for a big speech in this matter. My submission to the House, therefore, is that this small request that is made by the population there may be granted with that usual generosity shown by the Government in such matters.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Mr. President, Sir, although I am indeed glad to support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur Latin-Christians, I am rather pessimistic about the results which he will be able to achieve by this resolution. I am an unfortunate individual who once moved and moved successfully a resolution for the establishment of a grant-in-aid dispensary at Triprayar. Although I pressed the resolution to a division and the resolution was carried with a thumping majority, the Government after very careful consideration published in their Gazette their inability to carry my resolution into effect. The policy of the Government in these matters was also defined then that in future the policy of establishing more and more rural dispensaries would be discontinued and the policy of giving more amenities in big hospitals will alone be adopted hereafter. In spite of that definition of their view, I make bold to support the resolution, only because the necessity is so urgent and so deeply felt that it is our duty to support it. There are instances of grant-in-aid dispensaries being established in this State in localities where the people can have easy access to other dispensaries or hospitals situated within one and-a-half or two miles. I may point out for the information of the

STARTING OF A GRANT-IN-AID DISPENSARY IN GOTHURUTHI 563

House that the dispensary established at Trikkur—I am sorry the Hon'ble Member for Nellore is not present in the House—is absolutely unwanted there because they have got access to Ollur or Trichur at an expense of two annas. Ollur is only one-and-a-half miles from Trikkur. There is also the Pudukottai dispensary very near. Thus there are three dispensaries very near to the rural dispensary now established at Trikkur. The Hon'ble Member for Nellore was very clamorous in his demands for amenities to his constituency; Government was equally obliging. That dispensary was established at a time when the famous M. L. C. Bridge was not built and when there was difficulty for communications. Now that the bridge has been constructed and there is frequent bus traffic from Trikkur to Trichur and other places, the necessity for a rural dispensary at Trikkur does not any more exist. And I may suggest that that dispensary may be shifted from Trikkur to Gothuruthi. With these few remarks, I heartily support the resolution. It should not be taken that this is a move for dis-establishing any institution for the establishment which the hon'ble member for Nellore has striven very hard for three years or more.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by my friend Mr. Joseph. There is vital necessity for a dispensary at Gothuruthi, because the local conditions are such that during the monsoon time, the whole river is flooded and it is absolutely impossible for the persons of the locality to cross over to the mainland if they want any medical aid. The House should remember that it is an island with the vast volume of the water of the Periyar on the northern side and a few very deep channels on all the other sides, so that in the absence of a dispensary there, the people would be absolutely starved from essential medical aid which they might require at some time or other. I, therefore, request, that the Government should find out some funds for establishing a dispensary there.

Mr. T. P. Poulse (Kannayannur): On a point of information, Sir, what is the population and extent of that island?

Mr. M. L. Joseph (Latin Christians-Cranganur): 6,000 people and two square miles.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I would suggest to the Government to establish a floating dispensary for the use of many of these islands that lie scattered here and there.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Cheruthuruthi): In the air or water? (*Laughter*).

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulom*): Water, of course. Probably the hon'ble member does not know of such dispensaries in Travancore.

Dr. T. Verghese (*Officiating Chief Medical Officer*): Sir, I rise to oppose this resolution. In ordinary circumstances I should certainly have welcomed a resolution of this kind, because it aims at extending medical service to the public. But knowing as I do, the conditions prevailing in our State, I feel I am unable to give any support to this resolution. Not very long ago, I had an occasion to speak at the opening of a ward in a nearby place, and then I observed that the State of Cochin is already spending large sums of money towards medical relief. As a matter of fact, perhaps some of the hon'ble members are not aware, the Government of Cochin is spending far more money in regard to medical service than any other part of India, excepting one or two places like Delhi. For every five square miles, we have medical institutions here, and as far as service goes I think Cochin may well be proud that by virtue of the large number of institutions and the work that is carried on in these institutions, service is being rendered very adequately indeed. In these circumstances, it is really impossible and I think it is not advisable also to extend or enlarge the number of institutions now. The aim of the Government now is to improve the existing ones.

With regard to the present question of having a dispensary at Gothuruthi, I would like to inform the House that there is a very good hospital at Cranganur, which is about three to four miles from Gothuruthi. And almost next door to Gothuruthi, one mile distant, there is a grant-in-aid dispensary at Channamangalam. After all, it is not very difficult to cross over to Channamangalam. As a matter of fact, there are 14 hospitals, 17 dispensaries, 18 grant-in-aid dispensaries and 7 itinerating dispensaries. And plenty of work is being done in these institutions. Therefore, I do not think it is really advisable to increase the number at present. As it is we find it difficult to maintain these hospitals in an efficient manner. The aim of the Government, therefore, should be to improve the existing ones. In view of these facts I oppose this resolution.

Mr. M. L. Joseph (*Latin Christians—Cranganur*): Mr. President, Sir, I am really surprised to find that this resolution has been so vehemently opposed by a Government which has been ten times more ardent in the matter of protecting the Ram Mohan Palace by spending 15,000 and odd rupees. This is a question involving 6,000 lives of the people of His Highness the Maharaja. If Government find it difficult to raise money for starting a grant-in-aid dispensary and if they are more particular in saving this lifeless Ram Mohan

FIXING THE WAGES OF COOLIES WHEN TENDERS FOR 565
WORKS ARE CALLED FOR

Palace, I for one cannot but condemn that very mentality underlying that policy.

One reason advanced for the opposition was that there is a dispensary at Chennamangalam. I understand that. But what I cannot understand is the manner in which Government is guided by mechanical rules. They say that there is a dispensary every 5 miles. I say it is not this 5 mile rule that should be taken into account in the matter of providing medical aid. The supreme thing that should be taken into account in these matters, is the health of the people. Besides being thickly populated, the island of Cothuruthy is disabled by natural conditions from getting easy medical aid from neighbouring parts. These things should be viewed by common-sense rather than by simple mechanical calculations. As I have already explained this island is surrounded on all sides by deep water, especially during monsoon times. Then it will be difficult and dangerous to cross the ferry with a dying patient (laughter) to Chennamangalam or Cranganur. Somehow or other we do not wish to end trouble by exterminating the patient in a watery grave. We do not want the alternative, of killing the patient to curing him. If the curing of the patient is considered to be more important, I say, there is real necessity for this dispensary. And being a small island with thickly populated area, I do not think it will be a waste on the part of the Government to establish a grant-in-aid dispensary for these 6,000 people, in view of the revenue that is being collected from these parts. Under the mechanical rule of 5 mile area, in certain cases, there may not even be 6,000 people in 10 sq. miles. Government should not deny this legitimate right of this island to get proper medical aid which all other people of His Highness the Maharaja enjoy. I therefore feel constrained to press this resolution to a division.

Resolution put to vote and carried

The House rose for lunch at 1-5 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble Deputy President in the Chair.

**2. Fixing the wages of coolies when tenders
for works are called for**

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ : മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, ഈ നിശ്ചയം "ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും കൺട്രാക്ടുകൾ ടെണ്ടർ വിളിക്കുമ്പോൾ തൊഴിലുക്കളുടെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ അനുസരിച്ചു തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കൂലിയും നീശ്ചയിച്ചു" ടെണ്ടർ ഉറപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഈ സഭ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റിനോടു് ഇപ്രകാരം ചെല്ലുകൊള്ളുന്നു" എന്നുള്ളതാണ്.